

## Society & Agriculture

### 3.5.4 Discuss the links that exist between social systems and food production systems

#### HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE

(in Davis & Nagle - called "Agribusiness" pg. 145)

#### \* 1st Hunter-gatherers

- \* 2nd Climate warmed (after ice age) & people began to settle & farm
- This led to beginnings of urban areas.

grew polycultures - mixed crops  
grew just enough to survive

#### SUBSISTENCE Farming

- ↑ low inputs of chemicals & fossil fuels; ↓ technology, ↓ \$.
- Vulnerable to food shortages

- \* Industrial revolution - Crop yields boosted due to better technology, transport, fertilizers, & irrigation

monocultures grown - one crop grown by itself  
ie. Potatoes in Ireland.

- \* Green Revolution - Began in 1950's due to a growing population.

GOAL is to increase crop yields to keep up with pop. growth & All about \$\$\$  
ex. New crops that are sturdier & produce more yield.

#### PROS

- \* Don't have to expand agriculture into untouched areas.
- \* Feed more people
- \* ↑ outputs
- \* Can use pest-resistant crops so ↓ pesticides
- \* can produce crops that are more nutritious (ie Golden Rice)

#### CONS

- \* uses lots of GMO's
- \* intensifies use of land
- \* ↑ pesticides, ↑ fossil fuels, ↑ fertilizers
- \* ↓ Biodiversity
- \* ↑ susceptibility to disease (ie Irish Potato Blight)
- \* Narrowing of human diet
- \* ↑ Pest resistance to pesticides
- \* Killed many important pollinators

# Types of Farming

## SUBSISTENCE

grow only what you need  
(little \$, tech, & inputs)

## CASH CROPPING

growing crops for the market, not yourself

\* can be for edibles or for non-edibles

## COMMERCIAL

Very large farms,  
All about making profits  
\* often a monoculture of crops or livestock  
(↑ \$, Tech, & inputs)

## PASTORAL

Raising Animals - on grass

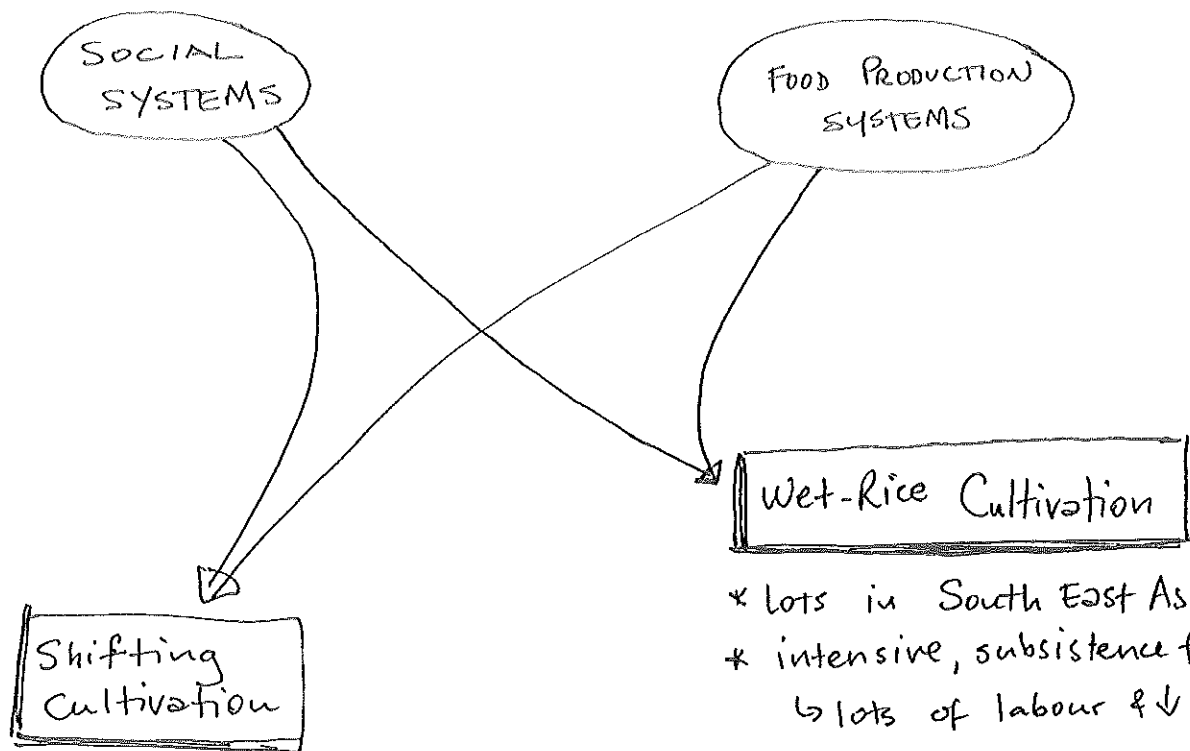
## MIXED

grow crops & animals  
- waste from animals used as fertilizers

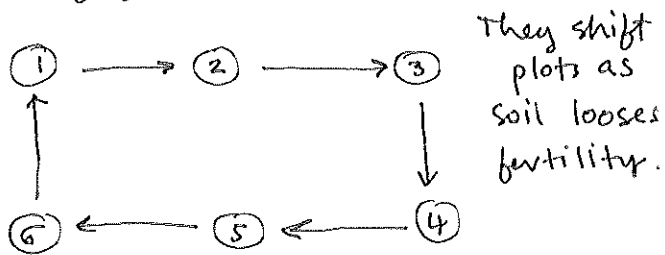
All of the Types of Farming can be either...

## Extensive vs. Intensive

- extensive - more land w/ lower density of crops/animals (↓ inputs & ↓ outputs)
- intensive - higher density of crops/animals (↑ inputs ↑ outputs)



\* "Slash & Burn" Agriculture  
 → new land is cleared by cutting down small areas of forest & setting fire to them.



\* Often in Rainforests

\* Linked to cultural traditions & beliefs → people think all things have spirits

\* OK if population density is low → need enough time to let soil re-gain fertility.

\* Lots in South East Asia  
 \* intensive, subsistence farming  
 ↳ lots of labour & ↓ tech.

\* ↑ Pop means ↑ food needs

\* Changes in Global Climate  
 changes in precipitation  
 less natural irrigation

\* Less land available for growing more

\* Declining soil fertility

↓  
 more & more diversification  
 of crops & livestock & aquaculture.

Land  
Ownership

Communal  
or  
Private?

What do  
people want?

for example:  
organic food

more organic  
farms.  
more regulation  
of organic  
label

for example:  
Concern for animal  
welfare

free range  
animals

Technology /  
Education

for example:  
need to feed people  
in LEDC & get  
them nutrition

GMOs' such  
as Golden  
Rice

for example:  
running out  
arable land

growing more  
on less land

aquaculture  
etc

Environmental  
Factors

Such as:  
precipitation,  
soil fertility,  
natural  
disasters, etc.

determine  
farming  
practices

WHAT WE  
GROW

Issues with  
GMOs -  
To Regulate  
or not  
Regulate?